

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A wire stripper comprising:

a stripping block including a front face, a back face and a top face, said stripping block having a plurality of wire apertures of varying diameters that penetrate said stripping block from said front face to said back face, and said stripping block further including a plurality of blade receiving slots cut into its top face which interact with said wire apertures; and

a plurality of blades inserted into said blade receiving slots whereby the cutting edge of said blades enters into said wire apertures; and

a ~~tensioning~~ compress bar for exerting ~~tension~~ compression on said blades;

whereby at least one wire is inserted through said at least one of said plurality of wire aperture apertures and insulation thereby stripped longitudinally.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled)

Please add new claim 6.

6. (New) A wire stripper comprising:

a stripping block including a front face, a back face, a top face, a first side face, and a second side face, said stripping block having a plurality of wire apertures of varying diameters that penetrate said stripping block from said front face to said back face, said stripping block further including a plurality of blade receiving slots cut into its top face which interact with said wire apertures and whereby each blade receiving slot is

positioned off center relative to the corresponding wire aperture, said stripping block further including a bore that extends from said first side face to said second side face; and

a plurality of blades inserted into said blade receiving slots whereby the cutting edge of said blades enters into said wire apertures;

a compress bar for exerting compression on said blades; and

a blade securing rod inserted through said bore for retaining said blades in position;

whereby at least one wire is inserted through said at least one wire aperture and insulation thereby stripped longitudinally.